

said fiber drawing furnace further comprising:

an auxiliary heater disposed at an upper portion of said [perform] preform container;

cooling means for cooling the upper portion of said [perform] preform container; and

at least one temperature sensor for measuring an internal temperature in the upper portion of said [perform] preform container, wherein said cooling means includes a control unit for adjusting the cooling quantity, based on the temperature measured by said temperature sensor.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are pending in this application. The present amendment merely corrects an inadvertent typographical oversight in claim 7 which appears in the Amendment submitted January 7, 2003. Accordingly, the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue or any new issue for that matter.

A clean copy of amended claim 7 appears in the appendix hereto.

Applicants submit that for the reasons expressed in the Amendment submitted January 7, 2003, all rejections have been overcome and all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore respectfully solicited.